

1 **CLAIMS**

- 2 *Sub*
- 3 1. A system comprising:
- 4 a search server;
- 5 an encoder;
- 6 a client computer;
- 7 wherein the encoder is to provide an indication of a currently available live
- 8 presentation to the search server;
- 9 wherein the client computer is to submit a request with search criteria to the
- 10 search server;
- 11 wherein the search server is to,
- 12 determine whether the currently available live presentation from the
- 13 encoder matches the search criteria, and
- 14 transmit an identifier of the encoder to the client computer if the
- 15 currently available live presentation matches the search criteria; and
- 16 wherein the encoder is to provide the live presentation to the client
- 17 computer.
- 18 2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the encoder is further to
- 19 provide a subsequent indication to the search server indicating that the live
- 20 presentation is over.
- 21
- 22 3. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the encoder further provides
- 23 to the search server, during the live presentation, information identifying current
- 24 characteristics of the live presentation.
- 25

1 4. A system as recited in claim 3, wherein:
2 the search server is further to transmit the information identifying current
3 characteristics of the live presentation to the client computer; and
4 the client computer is further to display the information identifying current
5 characteristics of the live presentation.

6
7 5. A system as recited in claim 3, wherein:
8 the information identifying current characteristics comprises a topic
9 description; and
10 the encoder provides a characteristics over indication to the search server
11 when the topic identified by the topic description is no longer being presented.

12
13 6. A system as recited in claim 3, wherein the information identifying
14 the current characteristics comprises text corresponding to the live presentation.

15
16 7. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the live presentation
17 comprises an audio/video streaming media presentation.

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19 8. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the search server is further to:
20 maintain a record of user search requests; and
21 notify the corresponding user when a new live presentation becomes
22 available that satisfies a search request.

1 **9.** A method comprising:
2 sending, to a search server, information identifying a live presentation
3 available over a network at the beginning of the live presentation; and
4 identifying, to the search server, when the live presentation is no longer
5 available over the network.

6
7 **10.** A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the identifying comprises
8 sending, to the search server, an indication of the duration of the live presentation.

9
10 **11.** A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the identifying comprises
11 sending, to the search server, an indication of when the live presentation has
12 ended.

13
14 **12.** A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising sending, to the
15 search server, an identifier of an encoder from which the live presentation can be
16 obtained.

17
18 **13.** A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the sending the identifier
19 comprises sending, as the identifier, a uniform resource locator (URL).

20
21 **14.** A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising identifying, to
22 the search server, information indicating characteristics of a part of the live
23 presentation currently being presented.
24
25

1 **15.** A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the identifying
2 information includes sending, to the search server, an indication of the duration of
3 the characteristics.

4
5 **16.** A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the identifying
6 information comprises:

7 sending, to the search server, an indication of the characteristics when the
8 current characteristics begin to describe the live presentation; and

9 sending, to the search server, a characteristics over indication when the
10 current characteristics no longer describe the live presentation.

11
12 **17.** A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising generating the
13 information identifying the live presentation as the live presentation is presented
14 over the network.

15
16 **18.** A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the generating comprises
17 identifying key words as the live presentation is presented.

18
19 **19.** A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising using closed
20 captioning data as the information identifying the live presentation.

21
22 **20.** A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the live presentation
23 comprises a composite media stream having an audio stream and a video stream.
24
25

1 **21.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
2 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
3 9.

4
5 **22.** A method comprising:
6 receiving information identifying a live presentation; and
7 making the information available for searching only for the duration of the
8 live presentation.

9
10 **23.** A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the receiving comprises
11 receiving information identifying a live presentation scheduled to occur in the
12 future.

13
14 **24.** A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the receiving comprises
15 receiving information identifying a currently available live presentation.

16
17 **25.** A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:
18 receiving information identifying a plurality of live presentations; and
19 for each live presentation, making the information identifying the live
20 presentation available for searching only for the duration of the live presentation.

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22 **26.** A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising:
23 maintaining a record of user search requests; and
24 notifying the corresponding user when a new live presentation that satisfies
25 a search request is available.

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2 **27.** A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising:
3 receiving, for each of the user search requests, an indication of how the user
4 should be notified; and
5 notifying the user in accordance with the notification.
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7 **28.** A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the receiving comprises
8 receiving the information from a same encoder as is presenting the information.
9

10 **29.** A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the making the
11 information available for searching comprises:
12 adding the information to a database of currently available live
13 presentations; and
14 deleting the information from the database when the live presentation has
15 ended.
16

17 **30.** A method as recited in claim 29, further comprising:
18 receiving a user search request; and
19 accessing the database of currently available live presentations to determine
20 whether a currently available live presentation matches the user search request.
21

22 **31.** A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising receiving an
23 indication, from an encoder that is presenting the information, that the live
24 presentation is over.
25

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1 **32.** A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:
2 receiving information identifying a current characteristic of the live
3 presentation; and
4 making the current characteristic available for searching for as long as the
5 characteristic describes a currently presenting portion of the live presentation.

6
7 **33.** A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the making the current
8 characteristic available for searching comprises:

9 adding the information identifying the current characteristic to a database of
10 currently available live presentations; and

11 deleting the information identifying the current characteristic from the
12 database when the characteristic no longer describes the currently presenting
13 portion of the live presentation.

14
15 **34.** A method as recited in claim 32, further comprising:
16 maintaining a record of user search requests; and
17 alerting a corresponding user when a new current characteristic that
18 satisfies a search request describes the currently presenting portion of the live
19 presentation.

20
21 **35.** A method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:
22 receiving a user search request; and
23 checking the database of currently available live presentations to determine,
24 based at least in part on the current characteristic in the database, whether a
25 currently available live presentation matches the user search request.

1
2 **36.** A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:
3 receiving information identifying a current characteristic of the live
4 presentation; and
5 transmitting the information identifying the current characteristic of the live
6 presentation to a client computer.

7
8 **37.** A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:
9 generating, based at least in part on the information identifying the live
10 presentation, descriptive information corresponding to the live presentation; and
11 adding the descriptive information to a database of currently available live
12 presentations.

13
14 **38.** A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the live presentation
15 includes an audio stream and a video stream.

16
17 **39.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
18 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
19 22.

20
21 **40.** One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
22 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one
23 or more processors to perform functions including:
24 identifying topic information corresponding to live content, the topic
25 information identifying a current topic of the live content; and

1 transmitting the topic information to a server to make the topic information
2 available for searching.

3
4 **41.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 40,
5 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting the topic information to a search
6 server.

7
8 **42.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 40,
9 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting the topic information to an
10 encoder.

11
12 **43.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 40, further
13 comprising transmitting a topic over indication to the server when the topic
14 information is no longer the current topic.

15
16 **44.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 43,
17 wherein the transmitting the topic over indication comprises transmitting, as the
18 topic over indication, a cancel topic indicator.

19
20 **45.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 43,
21 wherein the transmitting the topic over indication comprises transmitting, as the
22 topic over indication, new current topic information.

23
24 **46.** An apparatus comprising:
25 a bus;

1 a processor coupled to the bus; and
2 a memory, coupled to the bus, to store a plurality of instructions that are
3 executed by the processor, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed,
4 cause the processor to,
5 receive information identifying live content,
6 maintain the information for as long as the live content is available,
7 and
8 use the information to respond to searches from a plurality of client
9 computers.

10
11 **47.** An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the instructions to
12 receive information identifying live content are to receive information identifying
13 live content available from an encoder at the time the information is received.

14
15 **48.** An apparatus as recited in claim 46, further comprising a nonvolatile
16 storage device, coupled to the bus, to record the information identifying live
17 content.

18
19 **49.** An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the plurality of
20 instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to store the information
21 identifying live content in the memory.
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50. An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the information identifying live content includes a set of descriptive words and an indicator of a server from which the live content is available.

51. An apparatus as recited in claim 50, wherein the indicator of the server comprises a uniform resource locator (URL).

52. An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to:

receive information identifying current characteristics of the live content;
maintain the information identifying the current characteristics for as long as the characteristics describe the live content; and
use the information identifying the current characteristics to respond to searches from the plurality of client computers.

53. An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to:

receive information identifying current topic information identifying a topic currently being presented as part of the live content;
receive an indication that the topic is no longer being presented;
maintaining the topic information for a period of time after receiving the indication that the topic is no longer being presented; and
using the current topic information to respond to searches from the plurality of computers during the period of time.

1 **54.** An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the plurality of
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to generate, based on the
3 information identifying live content, descriptive information to be added to a
4 database of live content.

5
6 **55.** A method comprising:
7 identifying a set of search criteria to be compared to information describing
8 a plurality of live presentations;
9 transmitting the set of search criteria to a server; and
10 receiving a list of live presentations currently in progress that match the
11 search criteria.

12
13 **56.** A method as recited in claim 55, further comprising:
14 selecting a live presentation from the list of live presentations; and
15 requesting that the selected live presentation be transmitted to a client
16 computer corresponding to a user making the selection.

17
18 **57.** A method as recited in claim 55, further comprising:
19 transmitting a notification type to the server that indicates how a user that
20 identifies the set of search criteria should be notified by the server when a live
21 presentation is determined by the server to match the search criteria.

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